

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Timothy D. MacIntyre on 03/18/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 15 has been replaced by the following version:

-- Claim 15, A disk apparatus comprising:

a stationary frame having an opening for inserting or ejecting a disk-shaped recording medium,

a disk guide which is rotatably provided in the proximity of said opening of said stationary frame, and which has a function to perform recording and/or reproducing on said disk-shaped recording medium, wherein

a floating unit which is held in a floating state through elastic component in said stationary frame, and which has a function to perform recording and/or reproducing on said disk-shaped recording medium, wherein

said floating unit includes a disk-carrying member having a roller arm which rotates itself while pressing said disk-shaped recording medium onto said disk guide, so as to carry said disk-shaped recording medium to a desired position, and

said floating unit further includes a disk carriage-driving member which comprises a motor for driving said roller arm, a transmission mechanism for transmitting the driving power from said motor to said roller arm, a loading completion detecting means for detecting the completion of disk-loading, and a control slider for transmitting an information detected by said loading completion detecting means to said transmission mechanism.--

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 12-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With regard to independent claim 12, as the closest reference of record, Tuchiya (US 7,107,603) shows a disk apparatus in Figs. 1 an 9 including: a stationary frame having an opening (Fig. 9) for inserting or ejecting a disk-shaped recording medium D, a disk guide 17c which is rotatably provided in the proximity of the opening of the stationary frame, and which leads the insertion and ejection of the disk-shaped recording medium (Fig. 1; column 5, lines 12-24 and 39-41), and a floating unit supported by elastic members 40a-c (Fig. 9; column 7, lines 32-35) as a function to perform recording and/or reproducing on the disk-shaped recording medium, wherein the floating unit includes a disk-carrying member having a roller arm 18 (Fig. 17; column 5, lines 39-42) which rotates itself while pressing the disk-shaped recording medium onto the disk guide, so as to carry the disk-shaped recording medium to a desired position; when the completion of the ejection of the disk-shaped recording medium is detected, the control member is moved to allow a projection formed on the control slider to contact a projection formed on the stationary frame, to thereby engage a part of the roller arm with a part of the disk guide. **However, Tuchiya shows that the control member is a wheel rather than a control slider.**
- With regard to independent claim 13, Tuchiya shows in Fig. 17 that the roller arm 18 is held obliquely to a plane having the opening for disk insertion and ejection on the stationary frame; that the disk-shaped recording medium inserted into the opening for the disk insertion and ejection is carried orthogonal to the plane; **but fails to show that the disk-shaped recording medium inserted into the opening for the disk insertion and ejection is carried inclining to the plane.**
- With regard to independent claim 14, Tuchiya shows that the stationary frame comprises two frame sections having an upper frame 5 and a lower frame 4, and wherein a projection

formed on the disk guide at the rear side of the disk apparatus is engaged with a hole formed in the lower frame rather than the upper frame, the disk guide is rotated a predetermined angle on their engaging portion as a rotation center, relative to the lower rather than upper frame at the front side of the disk apparatus.

- With regard to independent claim 15, Tuchiya shows the floating unit further includes a disk carriage-driving member which comprises a motor M for driving the roller arm 18, a transmission mechanism for transmitting the driving power from the motor to the roller arm (Column 7, line 64 to column 8, line 4), a loading completion detecting means for detecting the completion of disk-loading (Column 17, lines 39-41), and a control member 61 (Column 18, lines 8-9), which is a wheel for transmitting an information detected by the loading completion detecting means to the transmission mechanism; **but fails to show** a control slider.
- Applicant asserts; “An object of the present invention is therefore to provide a disk apparatus reduced in size, thickness and weight, by reducing the space where a disk is carried and the space between a floating block and a stationary frame, as much as possible, with a simple structure.” (Specification, p. 4)

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tianjie Chen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627